

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior version and listings of claims in the application.

Claims:

Amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 remain as originally filed.

Please add new claims 18-32.

Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection for connecting an upper tubular member having an upper axis with a lower tubular member having a lower axis, the tubular connection comprising:

 a latch body radially movable between an unlatch position and a latched position;

 an engaging surface on the upper tubular member for substantially planar engagement with a stop surface on the lower tubular member;

 at least one inner load flank on each tubular member, a load flank on at least one tubular member angled with respect to the axis of the at least one tubular member;

 at least one outer load flank on the latch body for engaging the at least one inner load flank on each tubular member to urge the engaging surface axially toward the stop surface;

 a radially projecting member on one of the latch body and one of the tubular members, the ~~partially~~-projecting member extending radially inward substantially beyond the at least one inner load flank on the latch body axially adjacent the projecting member, or extending radially outward substantially beyond the at least one outer load flank on the tubular member axially adjacent the projecting member;

and

a guide recess in the other of the latch body and the one of the tubular members for receiving the radially projecting member to guide the latch body and the at least one outer load flank for engaging each tubular member along a desired trajectory generally parallel to a load flank adjacent the radially projecting member when the latch body is moved radially from the unlatch position to the latched position.

2. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least one of a radial length of the radially projecting member and a radial depth of the guide recess limits movement of the latch body with respect to the tubular members.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein the radially projecting member is at least partially positioned within the guide recess when the latch body is in the unlatched position and the inner load flanks on each tubular member are radially spaced from the outer load flanks.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

~~an~~ an actuator axially movable with respect to the latch body; and

a shoulder on the latch body moveable by the actuator, the shoulder angled to urge the latch body and the at least one outer load flank for engaging each tubular member radially outward.

5. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 4, wherein the actuator is fluid powered.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

an axially moveable cam member for simultaneously urging the outer load flank on the latch body for engaging each tubular member radially inwardly, the cam member having a cam surface tapered at a substantially constant angle ~~angled with~~ respect to the latch body.

7. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 6, wherein the cam member is axially moveable in respect to fluid pressure.

8. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
at least one elastomeric sealing member for sealing between the tubular members.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

~~a bias member for radially biasing the latch body~~ has a spring bias toward the unlatched position.

10. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 9, wherein the latch body comprises a c-ring.

11. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein the latch body comprises a c-ring.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection for connecting an upper tubular member having an upper axis with a lower tubular member having a lower

axis, the tubular connection comprising:

a latch body radially movable between an unlatch position and a latch position;

at least one inner load flank on each tubular member, a load flank on at least one tubular member angled with respect to the axis of the at least one tubular member;

a fluid pressured cam member for urging the latch body radially inwardly, the cam member having a cam surface ~~angled~~ tapered at a substantially constant angle with respect to the latch body;

at least one inner load flank on each tubular member, a load flank on at least one tubular member angled with respect to the axis of the at least one tubular members;

at least one load flank on the latch body for engaging the at least one inner load flank on each tubular member to urge the engaging surface axially toward the stop surface;

at least one sealing member for sealing between the tubular members;

a radially projecting member on one of the latch body and one of the tubular members, the ~~partially~~-projecting member extending radially inward substantially beyond the at least one inner load flank on the latch body axially adjacent the projecting member, or extending radially outward substantially beyond the at least one outer load flank on the tubular member axially adjacent the projecting member;

a guide recess in the other of the latch body and the one of the tubular members for receiving the radially projecting member to guide the latch body along a desired trajectory when the latch body is moved radially from the unlatch position to the latched position;

a fluid pressured actuator axially moveable with respect to the latch body;
and

a shoulder on the latch body moveable by the actuator, the shoulder angled to urge the latch body and the at least one outer flank for engaging each tubular member radially outward.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 12, further comprising:

~~a bias member for radially biasing the latch body~~ having a spring bias toward the unlatched position.

14. **(Original)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 12, wherein the latch body comprises a c-ring.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method of connecting an upper tubular member with a lower tubular member, the method comprising:

positioning a radially moveable latch body radially outward of each tubular member;

providing at least one inner load flank on each tubular member, a load flank on at least one tubular member angled with respect to an axis of the at least one tubular member;

providing at least one outer load flank on the latch body engageable with the at least one inner load flank on each tubular member;

providing a radially projecting member on one of the latch body and one of the tubular members, the ~~partially~~ projecting member extending radially inward substantially beyond the at least one inner load flank on the latch body axially adjacent the projecting member, or extending radially outward substantially beyond the at least one outer load flank on the tubular member axially adjacent the projecting member;

providing a guide recess in the other of the latch body and the one of the tubular members for receiving the radially projecting member to guide the latch body and the at least one outer load flank for engaging each tubular member along a desired trajectory generally parallel to a load flank adjacent the radially projecting member when the latch body is moved radially from the unlatch position to the latched position;

urging the latch body radially inwardly to engage the at least one inner load flank with the plurality of outer load flanks, and to urge the tubular members axially toward each other.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in Claim 15, wherein urging the latch body radially inward comprises:

providing a cam member having a cam surface tapered at a substantially constant angle~~angled~~ with respect to the latch body; and

moving the cam member axially with respect to the latch body to simultaneously urge the outer load flank on the latch body for engaging each tubular member radially to the latch position.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in Claim 15, further comprising:

providing ~~a~~an actuator axially movable with respect to the latch body and a shoulder fixed with respect to the latch body, the ~~safety~~-shoulder angled to urge the latch body and the at least one load flank for engaging each tubular member to the unlatch position.

18. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein the guide recess contains conic surfaces which are generally parallel and concentric to

surfaces of radially projecting member.

19. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein the radially projecting member has a radial dimension of at least about twice a radial depth of an adjacent load flank, such that in the unlatched position the at least one outer load flank is radially spaced from the at least one inner load flank while the projecting member is still positioned within the guide recess.

20. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein the radially projecting member is supported on the latch body and the guide recess is provided in the one of the tubular members.

21. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein the radially projecting member is a circumferentially elongate member with a configuration of a flange.

22. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of the at least one outer load flank on the latch body is radially spaced from the at least one inner load flank on each tubular member when the latch body is in the unlatched position.

23. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 1, wherein a radially outward surface on the latch body engages an axially movable cam member urging the outer load flanks on the latch body for engaging each tubular member radially inward, the cam member having a cam surface tapered at a substantially constant angle.

24. (Newly Added) A tubular connection for connecting an upper tubular member having an upper axis with a lower tubular member having a lower axis, the tubular connection comprising:

- a latch body radially movable between an unlatch position and a latched position;

- an engaging surface on the upper tubular member for substantially planar engagement with a stop surface on the lower tubular member;

- at least one inner load flank on each tubular member, a load flank on at least one tubular member angled with respect to the axis of the at least one tubular member;

- at least one outer load flank on the latch body for engaging the at least one inner load flank on each tubular member to urge the engaging surface axially toward the stop surface;

- a radially projecting member on one of the latch body and one of the tubular members, the projecting member extending radially inward substantially beyond the at least one inner load flank on the latch body axially adjacent the projecting member, or extending radially outward substantially beyond the at least one outer load flank on the tubular member axially adjacent the projecting member;

- a guide recess in the other of the latch body and the one of the tubular members for receiving the radially projecting member to guide the latch body along a desired trajectory when the latch body is moved radially from the unlatch position to the latched position; and

- an axially moveable cam member for simultaneously urging the outer load flank on the latch body for engaging each tubular member radially inwardly, the cam member having a cam surface tapered at a substantially constant angle with respect to the latch body.

25. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, further comprising:

an actuator axially movable with respect to the latch body; and
a shoulder on the latch body moveable by the actuator, the shoulder angled to urge the latch body and the at least one outer load flank for engaging each tubular member radially outward.

26. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, further comprising:

wherein the radially projecting member is at least partially positioned within the guide recess when the latch body is in the unlatched position and the inner load flanks on each tubular member are radially spaced from the outer load flanks.

27. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, further comprising:

the latch body has a spring bias toward the unlatched position.

28. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, wherein the latch body comprises a c-ring.

29. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, further comprising:

another axially moveable cam member for urging a latch body radially inwardly, the another cam member having another cam surface tapered at a substantially constant cam angle with respect to the latch body.

30. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, wherein

the radially projecting member is a circumferentially elongate member with a configuration of a flange.

31. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, wherein each of the at least one outer load flank on the latch body is radially spaced from the at least one inner load flank on each tubular member when the latch body is in the unlatched position.

32. **(Newly Added)** A tubular connection as defined in Claim 24, wherein a radially outward surface on the latch body engages an axially movable cam member simultaneously urging the outer load flanks on the latch body for engaging each tubular member radially inward, the cam member having a cam surface tapered at a substantially constant angle.